

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10611 080845Z

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2402

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10611

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, AF, XF

SUBJECT: A SOCIAL EVENING WITH THE BHUTTOS

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER SOCIALLY PRIOR TO SERIOUS DISCUSSION SO HE AND BEGUM BHUTTO INVITED MRS. BYROADE AND ME TO DINNER LAST NIGHT WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE MOST ENJOYABLE. GUEST LIST WAS ONLY THE PIRZADAS, SANDERHOFFS AND OURSELVES.

2. EVEN IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER, CONVERSATION AT DINNER WAS PRIMARILY BETWEEN BHUTTO AND ME AND BORDERED UPON THE OFFICIAL, WITHOUT GETTING INTO ANY REALLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT MILITARY SUPPLY AND ONLY REFERRED TO A SPECIFIC NOW AND THEN ABOUT AFGHANISTAN, WHICH RELIEVED ME IN THAT SETTING. ABOUT THREE-FOURTHS OF OUR CONVERSATION WAS CONNECTED WITH HISTORY OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AREA SOMEWHAT AS THEY DEVELOPED NATURALLY IN MY TALK WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, BUT WITH MORE EMPHASIS THIS TIME ON THINGS THAT AFFECTED PAKISTAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10611 080845Z

3. THERE IS CONSEQUENTLY VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO

REPORT, BUT THE FOLLOWING TID-BITS MAY BE OF INTEREST:

A. HE SAID WE WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT A MODUS VIVENDI OF SEEING EACH OTHER OFTEN THAT DID NOT UNDULY UPSET HIS FOREIGN OFFICE. I SAID I HAD BEEN IN THIS POSITION BEFORE, AND WOULD GLADLY ACCEPT ANY PROCEDURES HE PRESCRIBED.

B. HE SAID THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED, AND WITH THE HINT THAT THIS WAS AT LEAST PARTLY TO MEET THE SECRETARY'S VIEWPOINT ON THE TIMING OF THE CONFERENCE.

C. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT I WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO ALL CONCERNED THAT IT WAS NOT TO TAKE ON ANTI-AMERICAN TONES. I SAID NEVERTHELESS THAT LARGE CONFERENCES HAD A MOMENTUM OF THEIR OWN AND A WAY OF GETTING OUT OF HAND. I SAID I HAD A REPORT THAT ONE ARAB NATION HOPED THE CONFERENCE COULD DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN US AND EUROPE AND I WOULD REGRET SEEING THIS HAPPEN ON PAKISTAN SOIL. HE LOOKED CONCERNED AND WE DID NOT PURSUE IT FURTHER.

D. I SAID THE ARABS HAD MADE THEIR POINT ON OIL AND THAT UNNECESSARY CONTINUATION WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO HURT COMPLETELY INNOCENT NATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

E. AT ONE POINT PRIOR TO DINNER WHEN WE WERE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LONG-RANGE BENEFITS OF FRANKNESS AND HONESTY IN DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, HE PROMPTLY RESPONDED THAT HE WELCOMED FRANKNESS, AND SAID "WHENEVER YOU FEEL WE ARE DOING SOMETHING WRONG, PLEASE FRANKLY TELL US." NEVERTHELESS, HE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY OVER PAST ATTEMPTS TO COUNSEL HIM IN DEPTH AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO ON PURELY INTERNAL THINGS SUCH AS THE ADMINISTRATION OF BALUCHISTAN AND THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. HE SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE A RECOGNITION THAT PAKISTANIS UNDERSTOOD THEIR OWN COUNTRY BETTER
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10611 080845Z

THAN OUTSIDERS, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE THIS A DEPARTURE POINT FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. I LET THIS ONE PASS, SAYING THAT I FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

F. HE WAS CONCERNED OVER THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC SCENE. I TOLD HIM THAT I LEFT AMERICA WITH THE FEELING THAT THE INITIATIVES WERE BEING EFFECTIVE AND THAT THINGS WERE DEFINITELY ON THE UPGRADE. HE SAID

HE SENSED THIS AS WELL, AND WAS HAPPY TO HEAR ME SAY SO.

G. WE AGREED WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN WHEN WE TALKED ALONE AND HE SAID HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO HAVE SUCH A DISCUSSION AT AN EARLY DATE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT PAKISTAN WAS IN NO WAY GUILTY FOR THE MAIWANDWAL AFFAIR. I DID NOT TELL HIM ON THIS OCCASION THAT HIS AMBASSADOR IN KABUL WAS SPREADING THE WORD THAT WE WERE THE GUILTY ONES, BUT I PROBABLY WILL ON SOME OTHER OCCASION.

H. HE SAID THAT IF OUR PREFERRED SOLUTION OF A LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF THE ARAB BLOC IN SECURITY MATTERS WITH PAKISTAN, TURKEY, AND IRAN COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED SOME 20 YEARS AGO, TWO WARS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED AND TODAY'S TROUBLES WOULD NOT BE UPON US ALL. THIS WAS AN INTERESTING GENERAL DISCUSSION WHICH BHUTTO SAID HE WANTED TO REPEAT IN A SUBSEQUENT TALK WHERE WE WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO RECONCILE SOME SLIGHT DIFFERENCES ON HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS OF COURSE VERY YOUNG AT THE TIME AND WANTED TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE AS TO JUST HOW THINGS HAD HAPPENED.

4. THE ABOVE MAY GIVE SOMEWHAT DISTORTED IMPRESSION OF WHAT WAS INDEED AN EXTREMELY ENJOYABLE SOCIAL OCCASION. I THINK IT WAS A GOOD START ON PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, ALTHOUGH NOT OF COURSE PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL IN A SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING SENSE. IN AMKT ZLXS AM NOW LAUNCHED HERE AND WE WILL SEE WHAT COMES NEXT.

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PAGE 04 ISLAMA 10611 080845Z

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